

# Martin Luther King, Jr.

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day is celebrated by many people. Why do people honor this man? What makes Martin Luther King, Jr. a special person in history?

Martin Luther King, Jr. was born on January 15, 1929 in Atlanta, Georgia. He was named after his father, Martin Luther King, Sr. Martin grew up with loving parents, a sister named Christine and a younger brother named A.D. Martin's mother was a teacher and his father was a minister, his family taught him strong values from an early age.

While Martin was a young child, many parts of the South were segregated, or separated. African Americans were not treated fairly and many of the laws treated whites better than African Americans. These unfair laws were called "Jim Crow" laws. African Americans and whites had to go to different schools, sit in different parts of the bus, and drink from different water fountains. Martin and his family knew these laws were unfair.

Martin was a bright child and a hard worker. He started college when he was only 15 years old. When Martin finished college he became a minister. He went to Boston University and earned a Doctor of Philosophy degree, he became known as Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

While living in Boston, he met his soon to be wife Coretta Scott, they fell in love and were married. Martin and Coretta moved to Montgomery, Alabama where he worked as a minister. Martin had not forgotten about the unfair laws and was faced with these injustices daily. He decided it was time to make some changes.

Changing the "Jim Crow" laws took some time, but brave people worked together to bring justice to African Americans. Dr. King won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964 for helping make a more peaceful world.

Life for African Americans began to get better and many segregation laws were ended.

Dr. King was shot and killed in 1968. People all over the world mourned his death. People wanted to find a way to honor Dr. King. Today many people celebrate his birthday as a holiday.

1. Which of these events happened first in the passage?

- a. Martin won the Nobel Peace Prize
- b. Coretta and Martin were married
- c. Martin became a minister
- d. Martin went to college

2. Where did Martin grow up?

- a. Atlanta, Georgia
- b. Montgomery, Alabama
- c. Orlando, Florida
- d. Chicago, Illinois

3. In paragraph 3, what does the word **segregated** mean?

- a. annoyed
- b. separated
- c. unfair
- d. large

4. What word can best be used to describe Martin Luther King, Jr.?

- a. unfair
- b. angry
- c. caring
- d. lazy

5. How did Martin Luther King, Jr. earn the Nobel Peace Prize?

- a. He finished college
- b. He worked hard as a minister
- c. He helped other children become ministers
- d. He brought peace to the world

6. Paragraph 4 is mostly about—

- a. Martin's education
- b. Martin's family
- c. Martin's childhood
- d. Martin's hobbies

7. Why did people call Martin Luther King, Jr. "Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.?"

- a. He earned a Doctor of Philosophy Degree
- b. He earned a Doctor of Medicine Degree
- c. He was a doctor at a hospital
- d. He was not called "Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr."

8. This passage was mainly written to--

- a. entertain the reader with a funny story about Martin Luther King, Jr.
- b. inform the reader about Martin Luther King, Jr.'s life.
- c. convince the reader to go to a play about Martin Luther King, Jr.
- d. invite the reader to read a book about Martin Luther King, Jr.